

# Discrimination is Prohibited

## MEPA / IEPA IS THE LAW

**Multi-Ethnic Placement Act as amended by the Inter-Ethnic Adoption Provision of 1996**  
**DCS POLICY # 16-2**

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Requires that federally assisted programs are free of discrimination.

The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services requires that its services are offered to all eligible persons.

Should you feel you have been discriminated against, contact your local Title VI Representative

NAME

LOCATION

TELEPHONE NUMBER

**The Department of Children’s Services**  
**Complaint Resolution Unit**  
**Toll Free 1-877-DCS-KIDS**

The purpose of the Multi–Ethnic Placement Act as amended by the Inter-Ethnic Adoption Provision of 1996 is to eliminate delays in placement of children for adoption or into foster care when at all possible. The intent of the law is to ensure a person or governmental agency that is involved in adoption or foster care placement not deny to any individual the opportunity to become a foster or adoptive parent on the basis of race, color or national origin of the individual or child involved.

### Prohibited Practices Includes:

The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act/Inter-Ethnic Placement Act of 1996 specifies that an agency involved in adoption or foster care placements:

- *May not categorically deny to any person the opportunity to become an adoptive or foster parent on the basis of race, color or national origin of the adoptive/foster parent, or the children involved.*
- *May not delay or deny the placement of a child for adoption/foster care, or otherwise discriminate in making placement decisions, on the basis of race, color, national origin of the adoptive/foster parents, or the child involved.*

### Requirements:

- *Must provide diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed.*
- *Must report any appearance of violations to the local Title VI Coordinator.*

